

Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

April 5, 2010

Ref: 10-116-CN

Dear Adult DD and Acquired Brain Injury Waiver Participants, Parents, and Guardians:

In the fall 2009, the Developmental Disabilities Division (Division) announced we were making significant changes to the Adult Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver, Child DD Waiver, and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver. The changes were being made to achieve specific outcomes for participants and families, including adding the option to self-direct services, adding services that may better meet participants' needs, and removing the "aging out" situation. The changes included beginning a new Support Options Waiver and Comprehensive Waiver and ending the Child DD Waiver and the Adult DD Waiver effective July 1, 2010. These changes were contingent upon approval of the new waivers by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by early spring so the Division could successfully implement the new waivers by July 1, 2010.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has informed the Division that the Support Options Waiver and Comprehensive Waiver will not receive approval within the required timeframe for the Division to implement these changes effectively and with the least amount of impact on participants, families, and providers. Therefore, the Division has made the decision to incorporate many of the proposed changes by amending the Adult DD and ABI Waivers, effective July 1, 2010. The Division will not move forward with the Support Options Waiver or the Comprehensive Waiver at this time.

Below is specific information on how this change will impact you as a participant, family member, or guardian.

- The Adult DD and ABI Waivers will offer all the same services currently in the waivers.
- You will not be required to transition to a new waiver.
- The Adult DD and ABI Waivers will offer new services designed to better meet participants and families' needs, including Companion Services and Homemaker Services.
- The Adult DD and ABI Waivers will include the option to self-direct Support Services, including Respite, Personal Care, Supported Living, Companion and Supported Employment.
- For the Fiscal Year 2011, the Individually Budgeted Amount will be determined by the historical annual plan units, multiplied by the posted service rates, minus one time costs.
- Respite services will have a 2500 unit cap.

• Home-based workers will only be able to provide services if they are working under one of the Financial Management Systems; Agency with Choice or Public Partnerships, LLC. A home-based worker is a certified provider who provides waiver services in the participant's/guardian's home and under the participant's/guardian's direction. Division staff will be contacting parents/guardians if they have providers on the plan of care that are considered home-based workers. You will be contacted by a Division staff in May or June of this year. Staff will explain how to keep that provider working with your child or ward.

April 1, 2009

Ref: 10-116-CN

Participants and families can continue receiving the same services they are currently receiving. However, the new services may better meet your needs. The new services are identified below:

- Companion Services (to be used as a more appropriate services to families during work hours rather than respite)
- Independent Support Broker (Self-Direction only)
- Agency with Choice (Self-Direction only)
- Option of self-directing including Respite, Personal Care, Supported Living, Companion and Supported Employment
- Individual Directed Goods and Services (Self-direction with budget authority only)
- Unpaid Caregiver Training and Education (Self-direction with budget authority only)

The amended Adult DD and ABI Waivers will begin July 1, 2010. If you would like to self-direct your services (home-based workers will only be available through self-direction) or replace an existing service with a new service, this can be done any time after July 1, 2010 through a team meeting and a modification to the individual plan of care.

All of the changes listed above still allow the Division to accomplish many of the outcomes we were trying to achieve by starting the Support Options and Comprehensive Waivers, including new services, adding self-direction, and addressing the home-based worker issues.

The Division is providing two informational webinars to give further information to participants, family members, and guardians of the changes mentioned in this letter and to answer any questions you may have. There is no cost to attend. The following dates and times will be available for the webinar training:

April 15, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat for this session at: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register//595527962

OR

April 16, 2010 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat for this session at: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register//217583290

The webinar shows the presentation on your computer screen, but you must also call in to 877-278-8686, PIN number 252484, in order to hear the audio. If you do not pre-register for the webinar, you will not be able to access the presentation.

April 1, 2009 Ref: 10-116-CN

If you are interested in receiving more information on self-directing services, Public Partnerships, LLC will be in Wyoming during the month of May to enroll participants who want to self-direct and use their services. Dates and times to be determined at a later date. You will be notified by mail as soon as they are scheduled.

We hope that you will join us for the informational webinar to learn more about the amendments to the Adult DD and ABI waivers. If you would like to contact the Division regarding the changes, please contact our Cheyenne office at (800) 510-0280 or one of the Division staff members listed below.

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Sincerely,

Chris Newman, Administrator Developmental Disabilities Division Wyoming Department of Health